

YOU CAN'T FOOL US. If you air the Swift Boat documentary you will reveal yourself to be connected, as many of us know you are, to the corporate and Christian Coalition lobbies that support president Bush. You will no longer be viewed as fair in judgments, but rather as manipulated by political interests. You can't hide behind propaganda that frames Freedom of Speech as the issue; this is clearly an abuse of your powers and the American people see right through it. Unless you air Going Upriver directly after or prior it will be obvious that you are just a puppet for the Republicans.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.